



Spring 2013

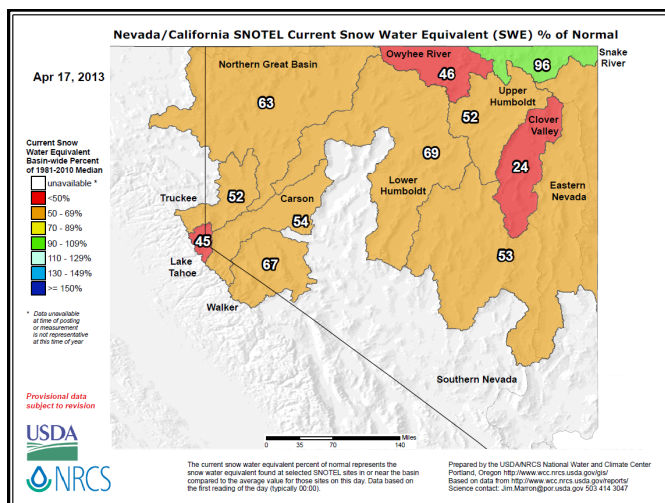
National Weather Service

The Gold and Silver Spotter

Driest January-February-March Period on Record?

Think it has been dry this winter? You are absolutely correct! Many locations are in the top 3 for driest January-February-March periods on record. Luckily we got some rain and snow the end of March and have had a few weak systems this month, but it was not nearly enough to alleviate the drought conditions. If it wasn't for the atmospheric river event we had back in December, which brought the snow pack to above normal for that time of the year, conditions would be significantly worse. As it stands currently, the snow pack in the Sierra is about 45-65 percent of normal.

Right: The Nevada/California SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) % of Normal as of April 17, 2013. Click on the picture to be taken to the most recent date on the NRCS website.

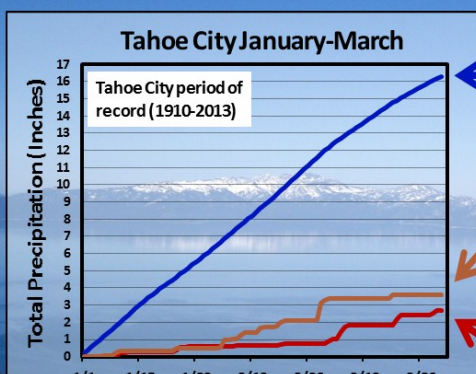


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Driest January-March for Tahoe City on Record



Average

(1980-2010)
Precipitation = 16.30 in

Previous Driest

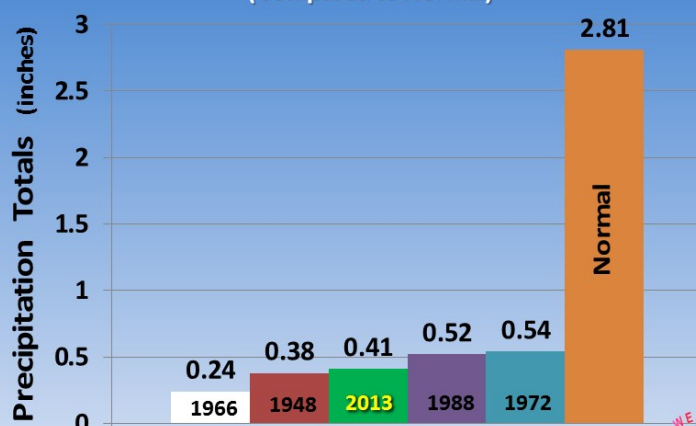
Year on record (1976)
Precipitation = 3.62 in

2013

Precipitation = 2.68 in

A storm the last few days of March brought some much needed precipitation to the Tahoe Basin; however, it was not enough to avoid being the driest January-March in over 100 years.

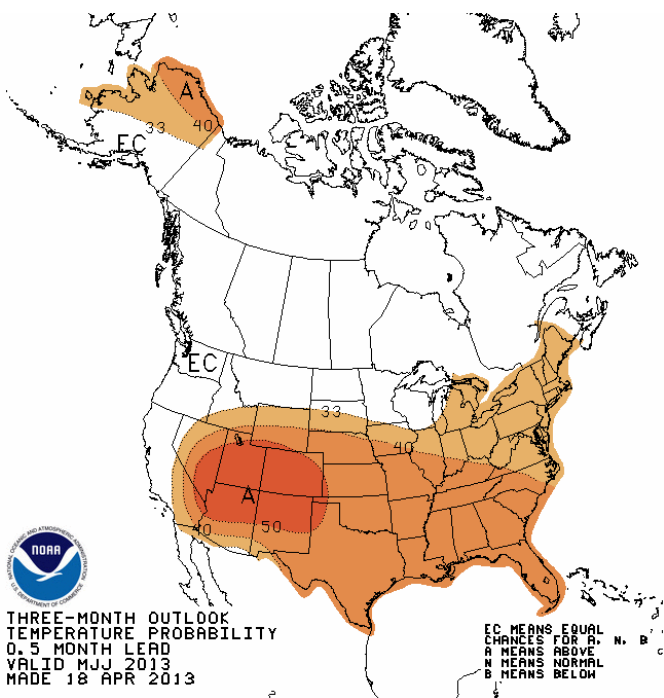
Five Driest January-March Precipitation Totals for Reno Tahoe International Airport (Compared to Normal)



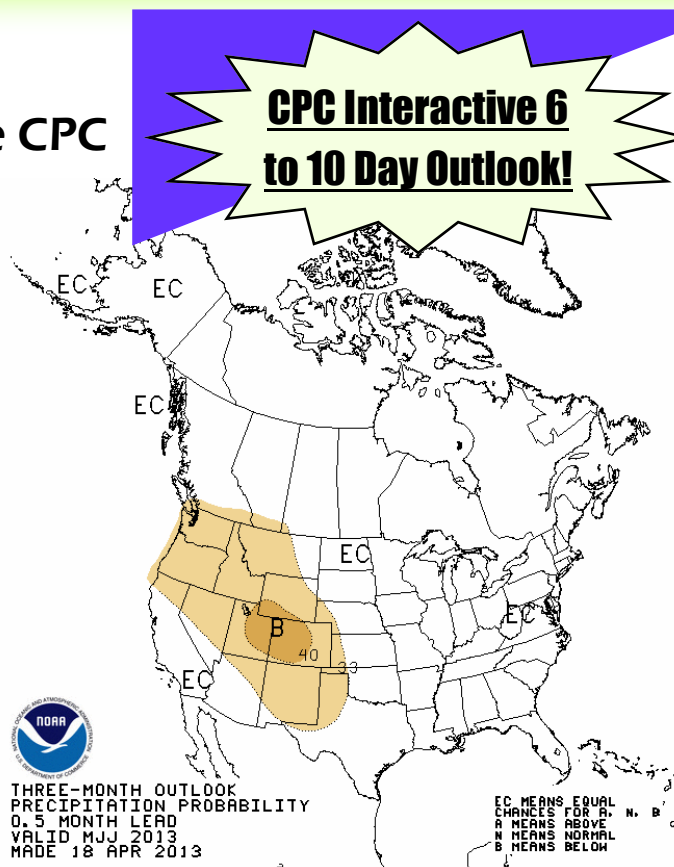
Period of record: 1937 - 2013



Three Month Outlook from the CPC



The three month temperature outlook from the CPC valid for May, June, and July is showing equal to above average chances for above normal temperatures.



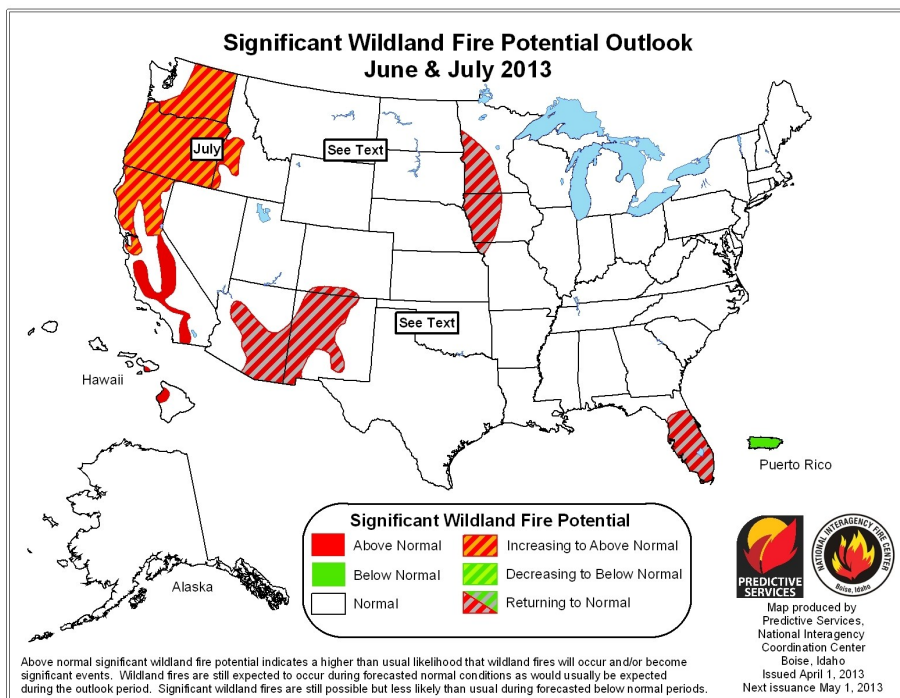
The three month precipitation outlook from the CPC valid for May, June, and July is showing equal to above average chances for below normal precipitation. This seems likely given the dry pattern we have been in.

How Will These Dry Conditions Impact the Upcoming Fire Season?



Predictive Services has come out with their Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook for June and July 2013. Here are some of the highlights:

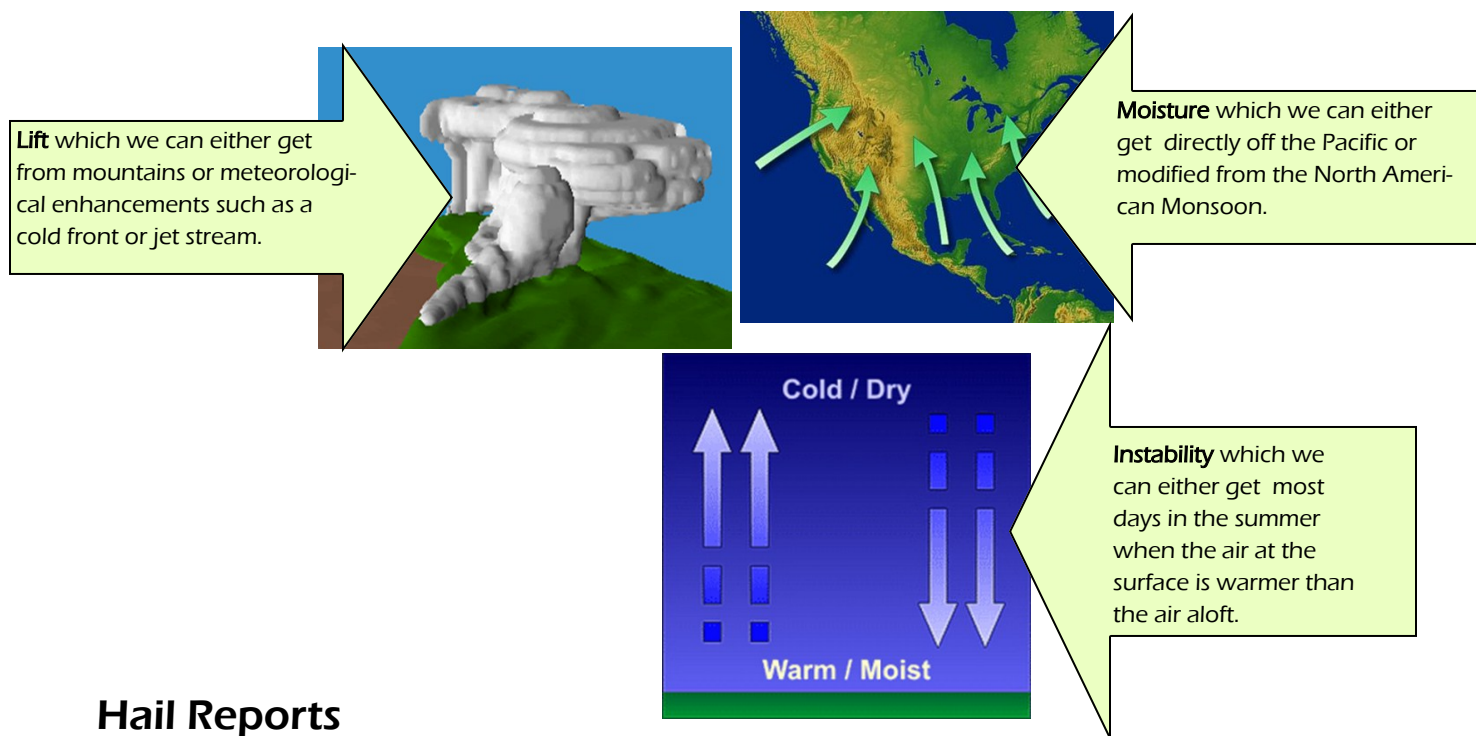
- Above average fire potential in the Sierra
 - ⇒ Due to record dry conditions
 - ⇒ Snow pack expected to melt early than normal
- Western Nevada near normal
 - ⇒ Limited grass crop due to dry conditions (could change if we have a wet spring)
 - ⇒ Timbered areas could see above normal risk due to the below normal snow pack



Weather Watcher Review—How Thunderstorms Form

Thunderstorms need 3 main ingredients to form: Moisture, lift, and instability. During the summer we frequently have 2 of the 3 ingredients, lift from the mountains and instability from the intense heating of the ground. Moisture tends to be a bit more tricky and is dependent on flow patterns which bring it into the region.

Keep an eye on the forecast for mention of upcoming thunderstorms and call the spotter hotline to report weather of significance. Keep in mind that for a thunderstorm to be considered severe it needs to have hail at least 1 inch in diameter and wind speeds of 58 mph or greater.



Hail Reports

When reporting hail, please make sure to relate the size to common every day objects and measure the diameter of the hailstone, see examples below and right. Please do not use the term "marble" as these come in different sizes and we may not understand what you're trying to relay. Thanks you for your reports!



<u>Hail Diameter Size (inches)</u>	<u>Description</u>
1/4	Pea-Sized
1/2	Peanut, USB Plug, just smaller than a dime
3/4	Penny
7/8	Nickel
1	Quarter
1 1/4	Half-Dollar
1 1/2	Ping Pong Ball
1 3/4	Golf Ball or average-sized egg
2	Lemon or Lime
2 1/2	Tennis Ball



National Weather Service



Weather.gov/Reno

National Weather Service
2350 Raggio Parkway
Reno, NV 89512

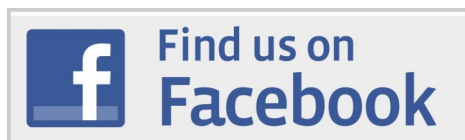
Phone: 775-673-8100
Fax: 775-673-8110
E-mail: Dawn.Fishler@noaa.gov
Or
Katherine.Hohmann@noaa.gov

Are you Prepared?

- 1) Know your risk of severe weather by checking ready.gov and weather.gov/reno
- 2) Take action—have a plan and multiple sources of alerts
- 3) Be an Example and share alerts and preparedness

Do You Like Our Graphics and Briefings? Tell Your Friends!

Social media is becoming an increasingly popular method to receive weather information and we want to make sure to keep up with that demand by expanding our presence on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. If you enjoy our graphics and briefings, tell friends and family to "like" or "follow" us so that they can keep up with the very latest. We have also been posting informational videos on YouTube periodically to give you insight into the daily operations here at NWS Reno as well as the science behind local weather phenomenon we deal with.



Watches, Warnings, and Advisories...Do you Know the Difference?

WINTER STORMS

Watch: A heads up 2-4 days out of a major storm (e.g. High Wind, Winter Storm); confidence level around medium/50% or higher

Watches can then turn into...

Advisory : Storm of inconvenience likely within 1-2 days; confidence level high/80%+

Warning: Major disruptive storm likely within 1-2 days; confidence level high/80%+

SUMMER THUNDERSTORMS

Watch: Conditions for severe storms or flash flooding developing within next 6-12 hours

Warning: Severe weather or flash flooding imminent or occurring within next hour